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* cited by examiner

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Beyer Weaver & Thomas

(57) ABSTRACT

Methods, systems, and software for installing and operating selected software applications on a client computer that is in communication with a server computer on a computer network are described. In one aspect of the present invention, a method for controlling the degree of access to operating system resources for a software program running on a computer that is running said operating system is provided. The degree of access to the operating system resources is defined for the software program, and at least one file including instructions for executing the software program is loaded on the computer from the server computer. The file is examined to determine the degree of system-level access available to the software program when the software program is being executed by the computer. The software program is executed, and a program instruction associated with the software program is intercepted when the software is being executed on the computer. A determination is then made to determine if the program instruction includes an operation that is outside of a degree of system-level access that is available to the software program, and if it is determined that the software program has permission to access system-level resources associated with the computer that are within the degree of system-level access available to the software, the program instruction is executed.

36 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

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